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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-Hour Report

13 October 2016

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Riverside - Accused Killer of Two Officers Charged with Murder

(U) The man accused of fatally shooting two police officers and wounding a third in Palm Springs over the weekend has been formally charged with murder and attempted murder, prosecutors said yesterday. The suspect, John Felix, 26, would be eligible for the death penalty if convicted as charged, but prosecutors said they would decide at a later date whether to seek capital punishment. The two officers slain on Saturday were the first killed in the line of duty in 54 years in Palm Springs. SOURCE: 12 October 2016, Reuters

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Arizona - Woman Accused of Conspiracy to Commit Terrorism

(U) Phoenix – Authorities say an Arizona woman has been arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit terrorism. Michelle Bastian was taken into custody after agents from the Phoenix office of the FBI and the Arizona Attorney General's Office served search warrants yesterday in Chandler and Florence. No other details were immediately released about Bastian or the case.

SOURCE: 12 October 2016, Associated Press

(U) Colorado – FBI Investigates Bomb Left at Police Station

(U) Nederland – The FBI is trying to determine why someone left an explosive device in a backpack in front of the police department of a small Colorado mountain town, prompting evacuations in the community's main retail area. A Nederland police detective found the bag outside the building when he began his shift yesterday morning and brought it inside because he thought it was lost property. He opened it and found "suspicious articles" that were later determined to be an improvised explosive device, police Marshal Paul Carrill said. The FBI, which had assumed control of the investigation by yesterday afternoon, said the device was active but failed to detonate. Two robots searched the backpack, and multiple pieces were removed from the device and sent to a forensics lab. SOURCE: 13 October 2016, Associated Press

(U) Florida – Four Men of Accused of Human Trafficking, Murder

(U) Orlando – Two men are in jail and police are looking for two others in connection with the death of a teenager whose drug overdose led investigators to a human trafficking ring. Yesterday, Orlando police announced the arrests of Avorice Jeno Holman, 19, and Jose Ignacia Santiago-Sotomayor, 22. The 14-year-old girl was brought to an Orlando hospital on 14 August, suffering from an overdose of cold medicine dextromethorphan and Xanax. She later died. The two men in jail and the two being sought face charges including first-degree murder, human trafficking of a child and procuring a minor for prostitution.

SOURCE: 13 October 2016, Associated Press

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(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Congo - Congo Militia Leader, 100 Fighters Surrender to Authorities

(U) Kinshasa – The governor of Congo's Haute-Katanga province says a warlord and militia leader who escaped prison has surrendered along with 100 of his fighters. Governor Jean-Claude Kazembe said yesterday that Gedeon Kyungu Mutanga and the fighters turned themselves in to authorities in Malambwe. He says the surrender is a result of long negotiations to put an end to insecurity in the area. He says they will enter the government's demobilization and rehabilitation program.

SOURCE: 12 October 2016, Associated Press

(U) Germany – Germany Approves More Troops for Aerial Surveillance of ISIL

(U) Berlin – Chancellor Angela Merkel's cabinet yesterday approved the deployment of additional German troops to Turkey to help operate NATO surveillance aircraft as part of the US-led fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), government sources said. The Airborne Warning and Control System aircraft will be based at Konya air base in southern Turkey. They will be used for reconnaissance in support of air strikes against ISIL targets. Germany already has about 500 military personnel involved in the fight against ISIL, including over 240 who are based at Incirlik Air Base in Turkey to operate six Tornado surveillance aircraft and a refueling plane.

SOURCE: 12 October 2016, Reuters

(U) Nigeria – Boko Haram Releases 21 Abducted Schoolgirls in Swap

(U) Maiduguri – Twenty-one of Nigeria's Chibok schoolgirls kidnapped by Boko Haram more than two years ago have been freed in a swap for detained leaders of the extremist group, the government and military said today. Some 197 girls remain captive, though it is not known how many of them may have died. The freed girls, the first to be released as a result of government action, are in the custody of the Department of State Services, Nigeria's secret intelligence agency, according to presidential spokesman Garba Shehu.

SOURCE: 13 October 2016, Associated Press

(U) Yemen – US Navy Destroyer Again Targeted by Missiles from Yemen

(U) Sana'a – A US Navy destroyer was targeted yesterday in a failed missile attack from territory in Yemen controlled by Iran-aligned Houthi rebels, the second such incident in the past four days, US officials said. The USS Mason, which was accompanied by the USS Ponce, an amphibious transport dock, fired defensive salvos in response to the missiles, neither of which hit the ship or caused any damage as it operated north of the Bab al-Mandab Strait. The Houthis, who are battling the internationally-recognized government of Yemen President Abd Rabbu Mansour al-Hadi, denied any involvement in the previous attempt to strike the USS Mason or the nearby USS Ponce on Sunday.

SOURCE: 12 October 2016, Reuters

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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